

REMARKS

35 USC §103

Claims 12-14 and 17-19 are herein rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gardner et al (US 6,194,283) in view of Fulford, Jr. et al. (US 6,008,109). The Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite allowance of claim 20 and claims 24-31, which are dependent on allowable claim 20 and contain all of the provisions of allowable claim 20, the Applicant herein cancels claims 12-19 and will file these claims in a divisional application, thus this rejection is mooted. It should be understood that the Applicant still considers the rejection to be improper and is in no way agreeing with the Examiner regarding this rejection.

Claims 15-16 are herein rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gardner et al (US 6,194,283) and Fulford, Jr. et al. (US 6,008,109) as applied to claims 12-14 and 17-19 above, and further in view of Koyanagi (US 6,191,002). The Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite allowance of claim 20 and claims 24-31, which are dependent on allowable claim 20 and contain all of the provisions of allowable claim 20, the Applicant herein cancels claims 12-19 and will file these claims in a divisional application, thus this rejection is mooted. It should be understood that the Applicant still considers the rejection to be improper and is in no way agreeing with the Examiner regarding this rejection.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 20 and 24-31 are pending in this application. The Examiner states in Paper No. 14 that claim 20 is allowable as written. Claims 24-31 are directly dependent from claim 20, and therefore, according to conventional patent practice, are also allowable, since these claims contain all of the provisions of allowable claim 20. The applicants request allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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LISTING OF THE CURRENT CLAIMS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE

Claims 1-11: Previously Withdrawn

Claims 12-19: Canceled.

Claim 20: (Original) A method of removing a spin-on compound, comprising:
spin-depositing a spin-on compound on a surface of a substrate, wherein the spin-on compound comprises silicon, wherein the first solvent comprises propyl acetate, and wherein the second solvent comprises ethyl lactate; and
spin-rinsing the spin-on compound with a solvent mixture, wherein the solvent mixture comprises a first solvent that dissolves the spin-on compound, and a second solvent that is inert to the spin-on compound.

Claims 21-23: Previously Canceled.

Claim 24: (Added) The method of claim 20, wherein the substrate comprises a trench.

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Claim 25: (Added) The method of claim 24, wherein the spin-on compound is spin-deposited into the trench.

Claim 26: (Added) The method of claim 20, wherein the spin-on compound is partially removed.

Claim 27: (Added) A method of forming a shallow trench isolation structure, comprising:
partially removing the spin-on compound according to the method of claim 20 such that an upper surface of the remaining compound is below the surface of the substrate;
depositing a second compound onto the substrate surface and onto the upper surface of the remaining spin-on compound by chemical vapor deposition.

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- Claim 28: (Added) The method of claim 27, further comprising planarizing the isolation structure such that the surface of the substrate and an upper surface of the second compound are substantially coplanar.
- Claim 29: (Added) The method of claim 27, wherein the substrate surface and the trench further comprise a thermal oxide coat.
- Claim 30: (Added) The method of one of claims 20 or 27, wherein the spin-on compound is formed from at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methylsilsesquioxane, hydrogensilsesquioxane, methylhydrosilsesquioxane, silicate, and perhydrosilazane.
- Claim 31: (Added) The method of claim 27, wherein the second compound is formed from tetraethylorthosilicate or silane.
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